

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An electric hand tool comprising a casing, the casing further comprising:

electrically operated components;

a housing configured to accommodate a battery that powers the electrically operated components;

a locking means attached to the casing for locking the battery in the housing in a state of being electrically connected to the electrically operated components;

an actuating trigger configured to actuate the locking means; and

a retaining finger extending from a surface of the housing, the retaining finger configured to retain the accommodated battery in the housing in an electrically disconnected state.

2. (Previously presented) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to accommodate therein a battery by sliding, and

wherein the locking means comprises a locking finger movable in a direction substantially orthogonal to the sliding direction of the battery.

3. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 2, in which the locking and retaining fingers are mounted so that they can be moved into retracted positions against the action of elastic return means.

4. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 2, further comprising a rod slidably connecting the actuating trigger to the locking finger.

5. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 2, in which the retaining finger is secured to a pivoting elastic leaf.

6. (Previously presented) A tool according to Claim 2, in which the locking finger and the retaining finger are configured to move in opposite directions when accommodating an inserted battery.

7-10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented) An electric hand tool comprising a casing that further comprises:

electrically operated components;

a housing configured to accommodate a battery that powers the electrically operated components;

a first battery securing element mounted to the casing, the first battery securing element configured to lock the battery in the housing in a position of being electrically connected to the components;

a second battery securing element mounted to the casing and configured to mechanically retain the battery in the housing in an electrically disconnected state, characterized in that the second battery securing element is designed to retain the battery in the electrically disconnected position only by friction; and

an actuating trigger mounted to the casing and configured to actuate the first battery securing element;

wherein the second battery securing element includes a compressible retaining finger extending from an interior surface of the housing, the retaining finger configured to engage a recess disposed in an accommodated battery when the accommodated battery is locked in the housing by the first battery securing element.

12. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 11, wherein the housing is configured to accommodate therein a battery by sliding;

wherein the first battery securing element comprises a locking finger, and  
wherein locking finger and the retaining finger are configured to move in directions roughly orthogonal to the direction in which the battery slides.

13. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 12, wherein the locking finger and the retaining finger are configured to move into retracted positions against the action of an elastic return element.

14. (Previously presented) A tool according to Claim 12, wherein the locking finger is actuated by the actuating trigger via a slidably disposed rod.

15. (Previously presented) Tool according to claim 12, wherein the retaining finger is secured to a pivoting elastic leaf.

16. (Previously presented) A tool according to claim 12, in which the locking finger and the retaining finger are configured to move in opposite directions.

17-21. (Canceled).

22. (New) The tool according to claim 1, wherein the electrically operated components include an electric motor.

23. (New) The tool according to claim 11, wherein the electrically operated components includes an electric motor.